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The President's Daily Brief

February 2, 1974

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~~Top Secret~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

February 2, 1974

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Soviet [redacted] *Pages 1 and 2.* 25X1

Romania plans to challenge the USSR next week at the force reduction talks. *(Page 3)*

South Korean President Pak Chong-hui has expressed his increased concern about the possibility of a North Korean attack. *(Page 4)*

The Cambodian military situation is discussed on *Page 5.* 25X1

[redacted] the UK, [redacted] 25X1
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[redacted] *(Page 6)* 25X1

Notes on the USSR, Egypt-Israel, and the EC appear on *Page 7.*

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USSR

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[redacted] Dombarovskiy ICBM complex [redacted] construction is continuing on the silos for the Soviets' new large ICBM, the SS-X-18. [redacted] the depth of all of the new large silos--both those that are being built from scratch and those being converted from SS-9 silos--will be the same.

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[redacted] 25X1

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ROMANIA

The Romanians are planning to introduce substantial amendments to the Warsaw Pact's proposals at the force reduction talks in Vienna next week.

[redacted] Bucharest will try to broaden Moscow's concept of notification and verification and will call for expanding both the geographic limits and the scope of military disengagement. The Romanian delegation has already circulated a draft to the Warsaw Pact allies, including the Soviets. 25X1

The Soviets have indicated that the Romanian proposals will not be accepted. This will come as no surprise to Bucharest. The Romanians' main purpose is to get their views about European security before the widest possible audience.

Bucharest's proposal is a shortened version of the ten points that Ceausescu believes should govern the conduct of international relations. The draft's call for broadened verification and notification is intended to protect Bucharest from its Pact allies.

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SOUTH KOREA

President Pak Chong-hui in a meeting on January 31 with Ambassador Habib expressed his increased concern about the possibility of a North Korean attack. Pak stressed that he had no specific information about North Korean intentions, claiming that his feeling was almost visceral--based on 13 years of carefully watching his North Korean adversary. He did, however, list some indicators--Pyongyang's recent naval activity off the west coast near ROK-held islands, its hostile propaganda, and its negative attitude toward the North-South talks. Pak also made specific reference to "recent information" about the arrival of additional Soviet aircraft in the North and the strengthening of North Korean reserve divisions along the DMZ.

Most of the points raised by Pak have been heard before. Since last summer, South Korean officials have been talking about the possibility of some limited North Korean action. Much of this is for domestic consumption and in recent weeks has been used to justify new measures to control political dissent. 25X1
The references to the new Soviet aircraft and to the buildup, however, are new. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Because of [redacted] several 25X1
logical inconsistencies, and a lack of corroborating information, we view the report as highly suspect. Nonetheless, it appears to have prompted Pak to raise the security question with Ambassador Habib. Pak's 25X1
emphasis on the speculative nature of his information leads us to believe that he does not attach great weight to the report but considers it worthy of being checked out. He specifically requested Habib to assist in this effort [redacted] 25X1

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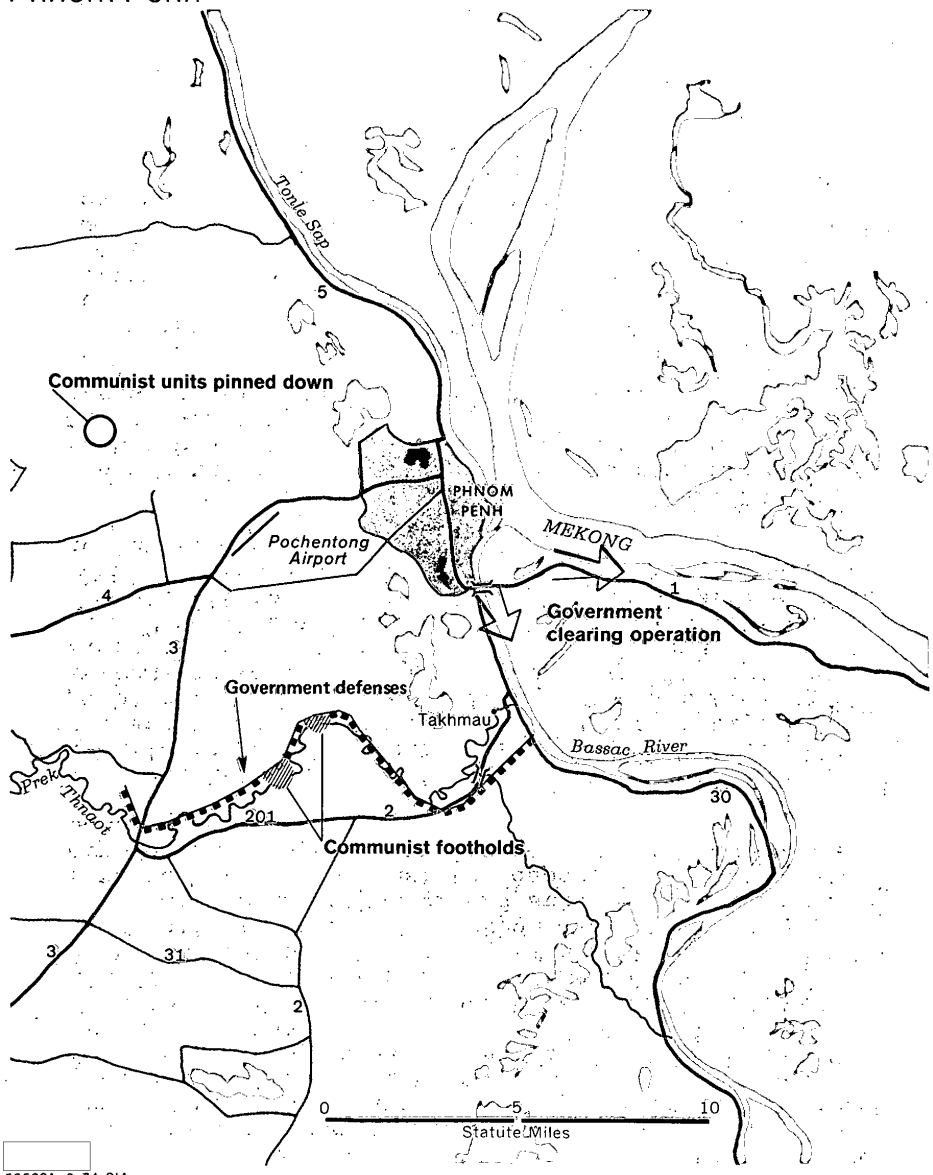
Phnom Penh



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CAMBODIA

The Khmer Communists resumed their shelling of Phnom Penh today after a four-day interlude. About 70 howitzer rounds hit the southern and southwestern areas of the capital, killing at least 16 persons.

North of Phnom Penh, enemy pressure caused the withdrawal today of Cambodian Army units from positions on the east bank of the Tonle Sap River opposite the capital's petroleum storage depot at Prek Phnou. The enemy followed the ground attacks with ineffective mortar fire against the depot. Reinforced government units are attempting to push the Communists back.

Little significant ground combat occurred this week in the south. Both government and insurgent commanders are having coordination and discipline problems. The lull has allowed Cambodian Army reinforcements to counter increased Communist activity along Route 1 and the Bassac River southeast of Phnom Penh. Small Communist units raided villages along Route 1 within three miles of Phnom Penh earlier this week, and the southern suburb of Takhmau is receiving mortar fire from the Bassac's east bank.

To the northwest, government artillery is keeping Communist units pinned down some five miles from Pochentong Airport. Intercepts indicate that the Communists have drawn units from the outlying provinces to reinforce the northern front.

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UK

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NOTES

USSR: [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

Egypt-Israel: Foreign Minister Eban has informed Ambassador Keating that Egypt has begun dismantling the surface-to-air missile sites on the Suez Canal's east bank. Egyptian officials last week agreed to remove the five sites by February 20 after Israeli officials had raised the issue at the Kilometer 101 talks. According to Eban, the Egyptian Army was at first reluctant to dismantle the sites but complied with President Sadat's "immediate, unequivocal orders" to do so. 25X1

European Communities: The EC foreign ministers reportedly made some progress toward agreement on regional development policy at their meeting on January 30, and this seems to have lessened tension for the moment. The broad debate requested by Belgium concerning the future of the community has been deferred until the Council meeting on February 4-5. Widespread dissatisfaction with France's recent behavior is likely to surface during this debate.

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